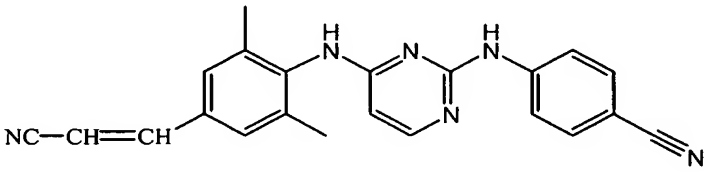
Amendments to the Claims:

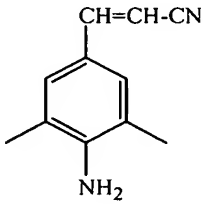
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of 4-[[4-[[4-(2-cyanoethenyl)-2,6-dimethylphenyl]amino]-2-pyrimidinyl]amino]benzonitrile of formula (I), a *N*-oxide, a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt, a quaternary amine or a stereochemically isomeric form thereof,



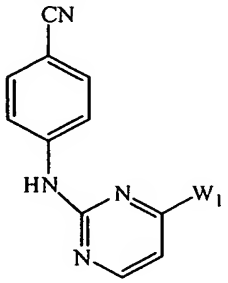
(I)

which comprises reacting an intermediate of formula (II), an appropriate acid addition salt or a stereochemically isomeric form thereof



(II)

with an intermediate of formula (III), an appropriate acid addition salt or a *N*-oxide thereof



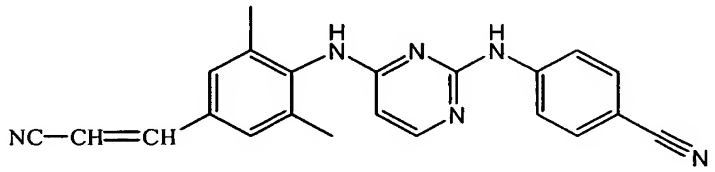
(III)

wherein W_1 represents a suitable leaving group, in the presence of a suitable solvent,

optionally followed~~, if desired,~~ by converting the free base into an acid addition salt by treatment with an acid, or alternatively, ~~conversely,~~ by converting the acid addition salt form into the free base by treatment with alkali; and optionally followed~~, if desired,~~ by preparing stereochemically isomeric forms, *N*-oxide forms or quaternary amines thereof.

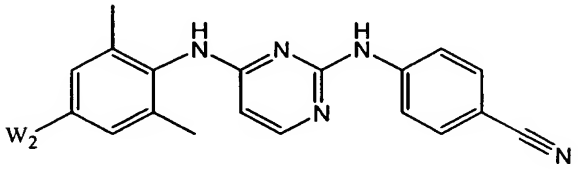
2. (Original) A process according to claim 1 wherein the solvent is acetonitrile.

3. (Original) A process for the preparation of 4-[[4-[[4-(2-cyanoethenyl)-2,6-dimethylphenyl]amino]-2-pyrimidinyl]amino]benzonitrile of formula (I), a *N*-oxide, a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt, a quaternary amine or a stereochemically isomeric form thereof



(I)

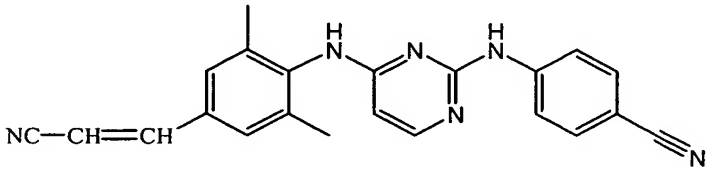
which comprises reacting an intermediate of formula (IV), an appropriate acid addition salt or a *N*-oxide thereof



(IV)

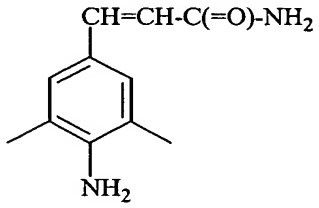
wherein W_2 represents a suitable leaving group, with acrylonitrile in the presence of a suitable palladium catalyst, a suitable base and a suitable solvent, optionally followed~~, if desired,~~ by converting the free base into an acid addition salt by treatment with an acid, or alternatively, ~~conversely,~~ by converting the acid addition salt form into the free base by treatment with alkali; and optionally followed~~, if desired,~~ by preparing stereochemically isomeric forms, *N*-oxide forms or quaternary amines thereof.

4. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of 4-[[4-[[4-(2-cyanoethenyl)-2,6-dimethylphenyl]amino]-2-pyrimidinyl]amino]benzonitrile of formula (I), a *N*-oxide, a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt, a quaternary amine or a stereochemically isomeric form thereof



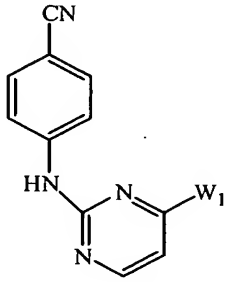
(I)

which comprises reacting an intermediate of formula (VI), an appropriate acid addition salt or a stereochemically isomeric form thereof



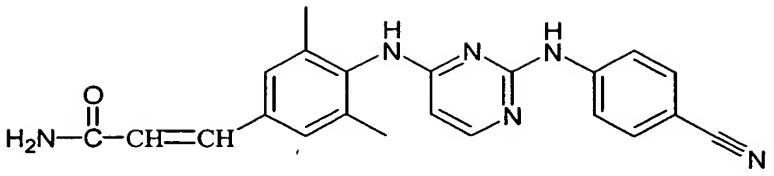
(VI)

with an intermediate of formula (III), an appropriate acid addition salt or a *N*-oxide thereof



(III)

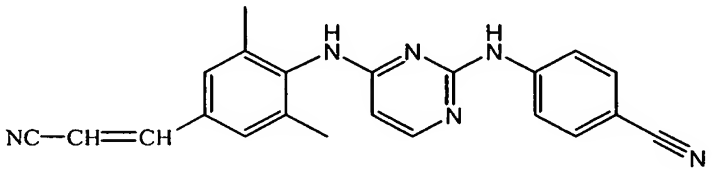
wherein W_1 represents a suitable leaving group, in the presence of a suitable solvent, followed by dehydration of the thus obtained intermediate of formula (VII), a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt, a stereochemically isomeric form or a *N*-oxide thereof,



(VII)

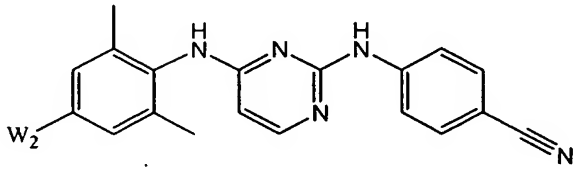
optionally followed~~, if desired,~~ by converting the free base into an acid addition salt by treatment with an acid, or alternatively ~~conversely,~~ by converting the acid addition salt form into the free base by treatment with alkali; and optionally followed~~, if desired,~~ by preparing stereochemically isomeric forms, *N*-oxide forms or quaternary amines thereof.

5. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of 4-[[4-[[4-(2-cyanoethenyl)-2,6-dimethylphenyl]amino]-2-pyrimidinyl]amino]benzonitrile of formula (I), a *N*-oxide, a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt, a quaternary amine or a stereochemically isomeric form thereof



(I)

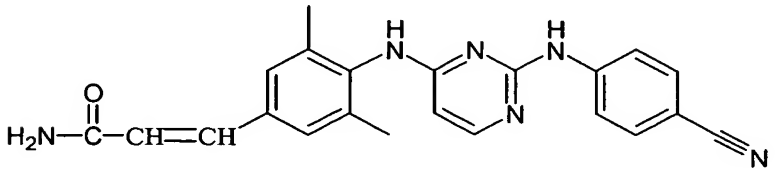
which comprises reacting an intermediate of formula (IV), an appropriate acid addition salt or *N*-oxide thereof



(IV)

wherein W_2 represents a suitable leaving group, with acrylamide in the presence of a suitable palladium catalyst, a suitable base and a suitable solvent,

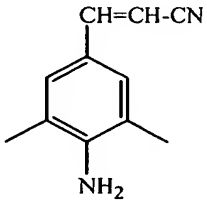
followed by dehydration of the thus obtained intermediate of formula (VII), a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt, a stereochemically isomeric form or *N*-oxide thereof,



(VII)

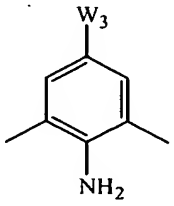
optionally followed~~, if desired,~~ by converting the free base into an acid addition salt by treatment with an acid, or alternatively, ~~conversely,~~ by converting the acid addition salt form into the free base by treatment with alkali; and optionally followed, if desired, by preparing stereochemically isomeric forms, *N*-oxide forms or quaternary amines thereof.

6. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of an intermediate of formula (II), an appropriate acid addition salt, a quaternary amine or a stereochemically isomeric form thereof



(II)

which comprises reacting an intermediate of formula (V), an appropriate acid addition salt or a quaternary amine thereof



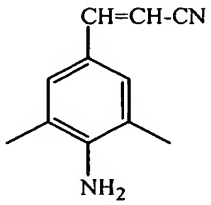
(V)

wherein W_3 represents a suitable leaving group, with acrylonitrile in the presence of a suitable palladium catalyst, a suitable base and a suitable solvent, optionally followed~~, if desired,~~ by converting the free base into an acid addition salt by treatment with an acid, or alternatively, ~~conversely,~~ by converting the acid addition salt form into the free base by treatment with alkali; and optionally followed~~, if desired,~~ by preparing stereochemically isomeric forms, *N*-oxide forms or quaternary amines thereof.

7. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 3 ~~or claim 6~~ wherein the palladium catalyst is a heterogeneous palladium catalyst.

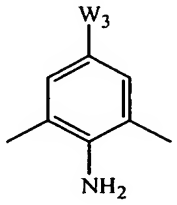
8. (Original) A process according to claim 7 wherein the heterogeneous palladium catalyst is palladium on charcoal.

9. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of an intermediate of formula (II), an appropriate acid addition salt, a quaternary amine or a stereochemically isomeric form thereof



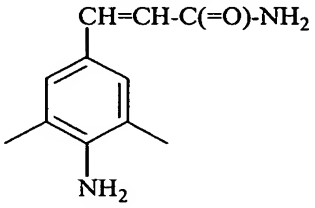
(II)

which comprises reacting an intermediate of formula (V), an appropriate acid addition salt or a quaternary amine thereof



(V)

wherein W_3 represents a suitable leaving group, with acrylamide in the presence of a suitable palladium catalyst, a suitable base and a suitable solvent, followed by dehydration of the thus obtained intermediate of formula (VI), an appropriate acid addition salt, a quaternary amine or a stereochemically isomeric form thereof,

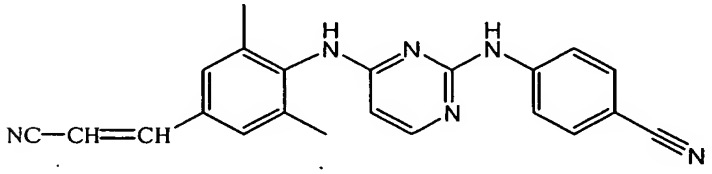


(VI)

optionally followed~~, if desired,~~ by converting the free base into an acid addition salt by treatment with an acid, or alternatively, ~~conversely,~~ by converting the acid addition salt form into the free base by treatment with alkali; and optionally followed, if desired, by preparing stereochemically isomeric forms, *N*-oxide forms or quaternary amines thereof.

10. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ wherein the 4-[[4-[[4-(2-cyanoethenyl)-2,6-dimethylphenyl]amino]-2-pyrimidinyl]amino]benzonitrile of formula (I), a *N*-oxide, a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt, a quaternary amine or a stereochemically isomeric form thereof, is 4-[[4-[[4-(2-cyanoethenyl)-2,6-dimethylphenyl]amino]-2-pyrimidinyl]amino]benzonitrile (E).

11. (Original) 4-[[4-[[4-(2-cyanoethenyl)-2,6-dimethylphenyl]amino]-2-pyrimidinyl]-amino]benzonitrile of formula (I), a *N*-oxide, a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt, a quaternary amine or a stereochemically isomeric form thereof



(I)

12. (Original) A compound according to claim 11 wherein the compound is 4-[[4-[[4-(2-cyanoethenyl)-2,6-dimethylphenyl]amino]-2-pyrimidinyl]amino]benzonitrile (E).